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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLAENAVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR, 1942.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Councillor Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Seventh Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended 31st December, 1942. As directed by the Ministry of Health the report has been considerably curtailed whilst retaining essential statistics and information.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

Despite the fact that we are now in the third year of war, it is very gratifying for me to report that for the year under review, the health conditions in the district were again generally satisfactory, and there were no causes of sickness or invalidity requiring special comment.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of myself as Medical Officer of Health (Part time), and a whole time Sanitary Inspector, who holds the qualifying certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and their special certificate for Meat and Food inspection.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.

With the exception of certain small farms and outlying houses, the district is provided with a piped supply from the Council's reservoirs, which is supplemented in some parts of the area by a supply from the Abertillery Water Board's main which passes through the district at its upper reaches.

The water supply throughout the year was generally satisfactory to all parts of the district.

Rainfall.

The district's rainfall for the year, which is recorded in the grounds of No. 2 Reservoir was as follows:-

January	3.63 ins.	July	2.67 ins.
February	0.77 ins.	August	5.95 ins.
March	3.15 ins.	September	5.17 ins.
April	4.38 ins.	October	3.47 ins.
May	8.41 ins.	November	1.55 ins.
June	0.37 ins.	December	7.66 ins.

Total for Year: 47.18 inches.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In most of the older parts of the district the drainage and sewerage systems are obsolete. It is to be regretted that owing to the war the Eastern Valley Trunk Sewerage Scheme, together with the subsidery sewerage scheme for this area had to be abandoned. It is to be hoped that when Peace comes every effort will be made to resuscitate these schemes which should provide the district with a satisfactory method of sewage disposal.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging and cleansing of the district is carried out by direct labour, and every effort was made throughout the year to maintain the three day a week collections of house refuse in all parts of the area.

The method employed for refuse disposal is uncontrolled tipping. This method is unsatisfactory and not hygienic, and many complaints were received from householders living in the vicinity of one of these refuse tips.

HOUSING.

Serious difficulties were encountered during the year regarding the carrying out of repairs to dwelling-houses, caused principally through the serious shortage of labour and material.

In some cases property owners have been successful in having fairly substantial repairs carried out, but in most cases all that could be done was to carry out such urgent and essential repairs as were necessary to make the houses wind and water proof.

Although a large number of houses in the district are in need of extensive repairs, there appears to be little hope of anything substantial being done until the return to normal times, when it is hoped that material and labour will be much more plentiful than at present.

BILLETING OF EVACUEES.

Whilst a large number of the evacuees who came into the area in 1940 have returned home, there were still at the end of the year about three hundred children and adults billeted in the district. Of this number by far the greater part was children.

Apart from minor illnesses, the health of these children has been excellent.

The arrangements made for medical and hospital treatment were commented upon my my last Annual Report, and have proved to be highly satisfactory.

The Emergency Hostel at Allgood Avenue, provided for children who, for various reasons could not be billeted with householders has served a most useful purpose. This Hostel, which has accommodation for ten children, is well staffed and properly equipped, and the children who have from time to time been sent there, have all been happy, contented and well cared for. The Matron in charge of the Hostel has carried out her duties in a capable and efficient manner and is deserving of the highest praise.

Great credit is also due to the many householders in the district who have taken these children into their homes, and tended and cared for them as though they were their own.

Mention should also be made of your Billeting Officer (Mr. Jordan), for the excellent manner in which he has carried out his duties. As most of us are aware, the task of the Billeting Officer has not been easy; much tact has had to be used and many difficulties overcome; but despite these difficulties and the many and varied problems which have had to be met, he has done his job efficiently, and with the minimum of trouble to all concerned.

STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area 4,612 acres.

Rateable Value £33,242.

Product of a Penny Rate £123. 6. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Legitimate	161	157	132	124	119
Illegitimate	6	3	4	4	4
TOTAL	167	160	136	128	123
MALE	79	85	75	68	71
FEMALE	88	75	61	60	52
TOTAL	167	160	136	128	123
LIVE BIRTH RATE	16.5	14.9	13.2	13.1	12.4

STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate	9.	13	11	8	17
Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	9	13	11	9	18

STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 of THE POPULATION:-

0.89	1.2	1.06	0.82	1.8

DEATHS.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
MALES	77	76	85	85	92.
FEMALES	55	48	74	66	63.
TOTAL.	132	124	159	151	155

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 of THE POPULATION.

BLAENAVON:-	13.1	11.5	15.5	15.3	15.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Boys	4.	8	6	4	5
Girls	4	2	2	5	4
TOTAL	8	10	8	9	9
Number of Births:-	167	160	136	128	123

INFANT DEATH RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS REGISTERED:-

1942.	1941.	1940	1939.	1938.
47.9	59.17	58.8	70.3	81.3

PARTICULARS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

UNDER 1 WEEK.	3.	1 to 3 months	3
1 to 2 weeks	1	3 to 6 months	0
2 to 3 weeks	0	6 to 9 months	1
3 to 4 weeks	0	9 to 12 months	0
Total under 1 month.	4	Total under 12 months.	8

CANCER DEATHS.

Males	7
Females	5
TOTAL	12

Causes of Death in the Blaenavon Urban District, 1942.

As Furnished by the Registrar General.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid and para-typhoid Fevers.		
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.		1
3.	Scarlet Fever.		
4.	Whooping Cough.		
5.	Diphtheria.		
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.		1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases		
9.	Influenza.	2	
10.	Measles.		
11.	Acute ant. poliomyel & polio-enceph.		
12.	Acute inf. enceph.		
13.	Cancer of Buc.cav & oesoph(M) uterus(F)	2	
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	
15.	Cancer of Breast		1
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	2	4
17.	Diabetes.		
18.	Intra cranial vascular lesions	6	2
19.	Heart disease.	20	16
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	9	4
21.	Bronchitis.	9	2
22.	Pneumonia.	7	2
23.	Other res. iratory diseases.	2	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years.		1
26.	Appendicitis.		
27.	Other digestive diseases.		
28.	Nephritis.	1	1
29.	Puerperal & post abort: sepsis.		
30.	Other maternal causes.		1
31.	Premature birth.	1	
32.	Congital; birth inj; infant diseases.	3	3
33.	Suicide.		2
34.	Road traffic accidents		
35.	Other accident causes.	1	
36.	All other causes	5	6
	TOTAL.	77	55

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally. The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ended December 31st. 1942, will be seen from the appended table.

DIPHTHERIA.

Ten cases of Diphtheria were notified; there were no deaths from this disease. This shows a considerable reduction of the number notified last year when there were forty eight cases resulting in five deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and there were no deaths This disease still continues to be of a very mild type and requires no comment.

PNEUMONIA.

Thirty two cases of Pneumonia were notified and there were nine deaths from this cause.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Four cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever were notified; three of these occurred in young adults and one was a middle aged person; one death occurred from this disease.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case was notified from this cause and the person recovered.

No cases of Enteric Fever, Dysentery, or Malaria were notified.

Of the other infectious cases notified little, if any comment is necessary.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Up to the end of December 1942, 1647 children between the ages of 1 and 15 years were immunised against diphtheria. The estimated child population between 1 - 15 years was given by the Local Food Executive Officer as 2,463. These figures show that whilst a large number ofthe Children in the area have had this simple and effective protection, there are still a good number of children whose parents have not taken advantage of the facilities offered to protect their children against this dread and treacherous disease.

Every effort has been made to encourage parents and to pointout the necessity and urgency of having their children immunised, and while we have not yet had the desired response, our efforts will be continued until we reach our goal of 100 per cent.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Small Pox.	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	10	48	32	46	10
Scarlet Fever	7	2	12	20	4
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	32	20	14	14	1
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	6	4	7	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	1	-	3	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	7	6	9	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	3	2	1
Erysipelas	7	2	-	-	2
Measles	4	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	9	-	-	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES. ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	Cases notified. Age Groups. Under 1 yr.	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over	Total all ages.	Deaths. Age Groups. Under 1 yr.	1 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over.	Total.	Number admitted to Hospitals.
Diphtheria		1			2	2		3	1	1			10											6
Scarlet Fever						3	4						7											1
Enteric Fever																								
Pneumonia	5	2	2			2	3	1	4	5	5	3	32	2					1	4	2		9	
Puerperal Fever																								
Cerebro-spinal Fever								1	2	1			4			1							1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis																								
Encephalitis Lethargica									1				1											
Dysentery																								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7												7											
Puerperal Pyrexia									1				1											
Other Diseases State Nature. Erysipelas			1			1			2	2	1		7											
Measles		1	1	1		1							4											
Whooping Cough	1	2	1		1	4							9											
TOTAL	13	6	5	1	3	13	7	5	11	9	6	3	82	2		1			1	4	2		10	10

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 10 cases of pulmonary and four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; these cases show a reduction of fifteen on the year 1941, when twenty eight pulmonary and one non-pulmonary cases were notified.

Nine deaths - three male and five female occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis and one female death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year.										
1 - 5			1		1					
5 - 15	1			1	2				1	1
15 - 25		2			2	1	2			3
25 - 35	1	2	1		4		3			3
35 - 45	1	1		1	3	1				1
45 - 55	1	1			2	1				1
55 - 65										
65 and over										
Total.	4	6	2	2	14	3	5		1	9

Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sheet 8.

Monthly Notifications of Tuberculosis.

Month.	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
January	2	1		1	
February					
March	4	2	1		1
April	1		1		
May	2	1	1		
June	1				1
July					
August	1		1		
September	2		1	1	
October	1		1		
November					
December					
TOTAL.	14	4	6	2	2

Comparison of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1938					
Notifications	15	14	2	1	32
Deaths	2	3	0	0	5
1939					
Notifications	13	18	6	1	38
Deaths	1	5	0	0	6
1940					
Notifications	12	10	4	1	27
Deaths	1	6	1	0	8
1941					
Notifications	14	14	1	0	29
Deaths	1	4	0	0	5
1942					
Notifications	4	6	2	2	14
Deaths	3	5	0	1	9

OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

MALE CASES	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Collier	1		1
Roman Catholic Priest.	1		1
Schoolboy	1		1
Child pre-school age.		1	1
Seaman (Merchant Navy)	1		1
Discharged Serviceman.		1	1
TOTAL	4	2	6

FEMALE CASES	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Factory Worker	1		1
Milk Roundswoman		1	1
Housewives	3		3
House Coal Saleswoman.	1		1
Schoolgirl		1	1
Shop Assistant	1		1
TOTAL	6	2	8

I am, Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Signed. J.J. Crowe.

Medical Officer of Health.